

NOTES ON NEW AND NOTEWORTHY PLANTS. CLI

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*PAEPALANTHUS DICHOTOMUS* var. *PUMILUS* Mold., var. nov.

Planta perpumila ca. 1 cm. alta, foliis linearibus 2--3 mm. longis 0.5 mm. latis apicaliter obtusis ubique glabris vel sparsissime pilosis, pedunculis 0.5--0.9 cm. longis subglabratiss.

An extremely depauperate plant, reaching a total height of only about 1 cm., the leaves abundant, linear-oblong, 2--3 mm. long, apically very obtuse or rounded, bright shiny-green, glabrous or very sparsely and obscurely pilose toward the base, peduncles 5--9 mm. long, very slightly surpassing the sheath, glabrate or microscopically puberulous.

The type of this variety was collected by H. E. Moore, Jr., J. D. Ambrose, R. E. Dietz IV, and D. H. Pfister (no. 9632) in a wet savanna with thin soil over white sand, at about 1200 m. altitude. northwest of Misión de Santa Teresita de Kavanayén on the jeep trail to Haito, Bolívar, Venezuela, on August 9, 1970, and is deposited in my personal herbarium.

*PAEPALANTHUS FRATERNUS* var. *MARAHUACENSIS* Mold., var. nov.

Haec varietas a forma typica speciei recedit inter aliis bracteis involucrentibus anguste lanceolatis stramineis gradatim apicaliter angustatis.

This variety differs, among other things, in having its involucre bracts narrowly lanceolate, pale-stramineous or light greenish-brown throughout, not margined, narrowed very gradually and regularly from the base to the very elongate apex.

The type of this variety was collected by Bassett Maguire, Julian A. Steyermark, Charles Brewer-Carías, Celia K. Maguire, and Victoriano Carreno Espinosa (no. 65609) at 2685 m. altitude on the cumbre, "vecindades del zanjón", Section Southeast, Cerro Marahuaca, Department Atabapo, Amazonas, Venezuela, at lat. 3° 37' N., long. 65°21' West, on February 15, 1981, and is deposited in the Britton Herbarium at the New York Botanical Garden.

*PAEPALANTHUS FRATERNUS* var. *RADIATUS* Mold., var. nov.

Haec varietas a forma typica speciei recedit inter aliis bracteis involucrentibus lanceolatis ubique atrobrunneis apicaliter subabrupte acutis discum capitis excedentibus.

This variety differs from the typical form of the species, among other things, in having its involucre bracts lanceolate, dark-brown throughout, rather abruptly subacute apically, and surpassing the central disk of florets like a crown or halo when it is pressed dorso-ventrally.

The type of the variety was collected by Julian A. Steyermark, Charles Brewer-Carías, and Ron Liesner (no. 124407) on the cumbre, at 2500 m. altitude, Northwest Section of Cerro Marahuaca, Dept. Atabapo, Amazonas, Venezuela, on February 16, 1981, and is de-

posited in the Britton Herbarium at the New York Botanical Garden. The collectors note that the heads are "somewhat flattened, depressed, gray-white, bracts spreading, leaves rich green". Actually the inner involucre bracts form a very characteristic crown- or halo-like effect around the flower-head when this happens to be pressed and flattened out in a dorso-ventral, rather than a lateral, fashion during the preparation of herbarium material for mounting. The inner bracts are very conspicuously attenuate apically and dry to a very dark-brown or almost black color, forming a decided contrast to the white disk of florets.

*PAEPALANTHUS FRATERNUS* var. *SPATHULATUS* Mold., var. nov.

Haec varietas a forma typica recedit inter aliis bracteis involucrentibus spatulato-obovatis, apicaliter rotundatis, marginaliter nigris.

This variety differs from the typical form of the species, among other things, in its involucre bracts being conspicuously spatulate-obovate, black-margined with a brown central section, apically broadly rounded.

The type of the variety was collected by Julian A. Steyermark and John J. Wurdack (no. 490) on an island in the Río Tirica above Middle Falls and below Summit Camp, at an altitude of 1925 m., in the Central Section, Chimanta Massif, Bolívar, Venezuela, on February 5, 1955, and is deposited in the Britton Herbarium at the New York Botanical Garden. The collectors note that the plant was "Locally frequent, in dense masses, leaves shining, deep green, but not bluish-purple and *Stegolepis*-like as in no. 491, scapes pale green, involucre blackish below, heads dusky-white".

The three varieties described above are remarkably similar in habit and in foliage characters, but differ strikingly in the characters of the involucre. It is very possible that further detailed study will reveal that they each deserve specific rank status.

The high-alpine species of this and related genera form a very complex group whose members may very well eventually be found to exhibit far more local endemism than is indicated by their present rather tentative nomenclature.